

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A guiding grid of variable geometry comprising:

a plurality of guiding vanes (7) arranged around a central axis (R), each vane (7) being pivotal about a pivoting axis (8);

a nozzle ring (6) for supporting said vanes (7) and their pivoting axes (8) around said central axis (R);

a unison ring (5) which is pivotable around said central axis (R) relative to said nozzle ring (6); and

a transmission mechanism (16-19) by which said unison ring (5) is connected to said vanes (7) for pivoting said vanes (7) about their respective pivoting axes (8), having a first transmission element (16) with an opening (18) in which a second transmission element (17) is slidably guided, wherein said second transmission element (17) is a drag lever (17) which is pivotably guided on an associated ring and in that said drag lever (17) immerses into said opening (18) of the first transmission element (16) in an approximately radial direction;

wherein said drag lever (17) has a longitudinal axis (A, A'), wherein said longitudinal axis (A, A') is bent with respect to its articulation point (19) measured as a bending angle ( $\beta$ ), wherein said bending angle ( $\beta$ ) is selected so that planes (P1, P2) pass through the central axis (R), through the middle of each respective pivoting axis (8), and through the articulation point

(19) of said drag lever (17), and wherein the bending angle ( $\beta$ ) is an angle less than about  $12^\circ$ , and that an angle ( $\gamma$ ) between the longitudinal axes of bent sections of the drag lever (17) is between about  $170^\circ$  to about  $120^\circ$ .

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A guiding grid of variable geometry comprising:

a plurality of guiding vanes (7) arranged around a central axis (R), each vane (7) being pivotal about a pivoting axis (8);

a nozzle ring (6) for supporting said vanes (7) and their pivoting axes (8) around said central axis (R);

a unison ring (5) which is pivotable around said central axis (R) relative to said nozzle ring (6); and

a transmission mechanism (16-19) by which said unison ring (5) is connected to said vanes (7) for pivoting said vanes (7) about their respective pivoting axes (8), having a first transmission element (16) with an opening (18) in which a second transmission element (17) is slidably guided, wherein said second transmission element (17) is a drag lever (17) which is pivotably guided on an associated ring and in that said drag lever (17) immerses into said opening (18) of the first transmission element (16) in an approximately radial direction;

wherein on at least some of the pivoting axes (8) a support surface is provided for the unison ring (5).

8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The guiding grid according to claim 5, wherein said bending angle ( $\beta$ ) is less than about  $9^\circ$ .

11. (Previously Presented) The guiding grid according to claim 5, wherein said bending angle ( $\beta$ ) is less than about  $6^\circ$ .

12. (Previously Presented) The guiding grid according to claim 5, wherein said angle between the longitudinal axes of bent sections of the drag lever (17) is about  $140^\circ$ .

13-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The guiding grid according to claim 7, wherein said support is a support roller (22).

17-19. (Canceled)